Indiana Crop & Weather Report

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 8

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

THIS REPORT IS THE FIRST CROP WEATHER REPORT FOR THE 2001 GROWING SEASON. A SERIES OF WEEKLY CROP PROGRESS REPORTS WILL BE PUBLISHED EACH MONDAY AT 3:00 P.M. EST THROUGHOUT THE CROP SEASON. These reports will cover planting and harvesting activities, crop development, weather data and timely crop management information provided by Purdue University experts. For the earliest possible access look for these reports on the Internet shortly after the 3:00 P. M. release time. Our Home Page address is listed at the bottom of this publication. Follow the links to view text and PDF files.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

Field activities gained momentum last week as soils continued to dry out and warm up. There were 5.7 **days** suitable for fieldwork. Scattered showers and thunderstorms during the week halted fieldwork in some areas. Most farmers welcomed the rain as precipitation is far below normal in most areas of the state. **Corn** planting is underway in scattered fields around the state. Most of the corn planted is in the southwestern counties with some planted in the central regions. Spraying of chemicals and spreading of fertilizer also made good progress. Other activities during the week included hauling grain to market, spreading lime and hauling manure.

Sixteen percent of the winter wheat acreage is **jointed** compared with 30 percent last year and 17 percent for the 5-year average. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 69 percent good to excellent compared with 73 percent a year ago at this time.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 5 percent excellent, 44 percent good, 35 percent fair, 13 percent poor and 3 percent very poor. Warm weather and rain improved pastures and forage crops last week. Hay supplies are rated 1 percent very short, 5 percent short, 81 percent adequate and 13 percent surplus. Livestock are in mostly good condition. Calving and lambing are active.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
		Percent		
Corn Planted	1	0	1	0
Winter Wheat Jointed	16	NA	30	17

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
			Percent		
Pasture	3	13	35	44	5
Winter Wheat 2001	1	5	25	56	13
Winter Wheat 2000	1	4	22	54	19

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	6	2	21
Short	22	13	29
Adequate	66	77	43
Surplus	6	8	7
Subsoil			
Very Short	7	6	33
Short	23	19	37
Adequate	66	68	27
Surplus	4	7	3
Days Suitable	5.7	6.4	4.6

CONTACT INFORMATION

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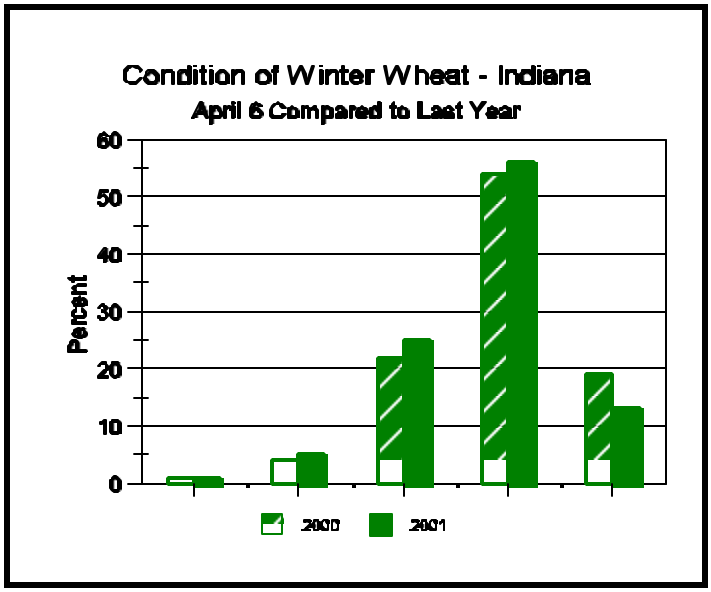
--Bud Bever, Agricultural Statistician
E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
http://info.aes.purdue.edu/agstat/nass.html



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Status of Indiana Wheat Crop

- Condition of wheat crop
- Top-dress wheat with nitrogen as soon as soil conditions permit

In general, the 2000-01 Indiana wheat crop went into dormancy in good condition. The November and December temperatures were lower than normal, which resulted in very few fields with excessive top growth. In mid December, snow fall of 1 inch or more was recorded across the entire state and remained for about one month. This snow cover was sufficient to protect the wheat crop from the sub zero temperatures that occurred during the last two weeks of December. Since the snow has melted, temperatures have dipped to single digits on only two or three occasions. In the Lafayette area, the wheat crop looks good but temperatures have not yet been warm enough for wheat to break dormancy and begin to grow. In the southern one-third of Indiana, If temperatures have warmed to the point where some fields have broken dormancy and are beginning to grow very slowly.

If you are curious whether your wheat has broken dormancy, there are two ways of making this determination when examining wheat plants. First, carefully wash the roots of a wheat plant and look for new root growth from the crown area of the plant. These roots should be snow white and may be very short (1/4 to 1/2 inch) if the plant has just broken dormancy. Secondly, look closely at the top two leaves of the plant. You should be able to see a line across the leaf at the point where the leaf was covered by the leaf sheath. The area below the line is the new growth and can be characterized by a brighter or shiny appearance when compared with the area above the line.

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday April 8, 2001

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
								April 1, 2001 thru April 8, 2001				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil	Precipitation		GDD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Valparaiso_Ag	79	30	53	+9	0.63	2		0.78	-0.23	3	40	+32
Wanatah	77	28	50	+7	0.65	2	51	0.76	-0.21	3	28	+20
Wheatfield	79	30	52	+9	0.89	2		1.01	+0.04	3	33	+25
Winamac	78	28	52	+7	0.05	2	52	0.12	-0.82	3	38	+29
North Central(2)												
Logansport	80	29	53	+8	0.37	2		0.57	-0.31	3	41	+33
Plymouth	78	28	51	+5	0.95	2		1.28	+0.29	3	33	+22
South_Bend	78	29	52	+7	1.19	2		1.45	+0.42	3	37	+29
Young_America	77	30	53	+8	0.33	2		0.56	-0.32	3	40	+32
Northeast (3)												
Bluffton	83	26	52	+6	0.08	3	46	0.30	-0.66	4	44	+34
Fort_Wayne	79	26	52	+8	0.78	3		0.95	+0.07	4	47	+39
West Central(4)												
Crawfordsville	80	27	54	+6	0.36	2	50	0.76	-0.28	3	42	+25
Perrysville	79	30	56	+9	0.11	2	52	0.25	-0.76	3	51	+36
Terre_Haute_Ag	84	31	59	+10	0.44	2	54	0.47	-0.50	3	71	+51
W_Lafayette_6NW	78	30	53	+8	0.61	2	48	0.77	-0.15	3	37	+28
Central (5)												
Castleton	83	30	55	+8	0.21	2		0.54	-0.41	3	51	+35
Greenfield	83	29	55	+8	0.11	2		0.25	-0.78	3	55	+43
Greensburg	85	31	56	+8	0.35	2		0.57	-0.49	3	57	+41
Indianapolis_AP	83	29	58	+10	0.02	1		0.11	-0.88	2	68	+51
Indianapolis_SE	83	28	55	+8	0.01	1		0.16	-0.79	2	54	+38
Tipton_Ag	82	29	52	+8	0.02	1	48	0.33	-0.68	2	41	+33
East Central (6)												
Farmland	85	26	52	+8	0.05	1	47	0.40	-0.53	2	45	+37
New_Castle	82	25	51	+6	0.47	3		0.78	-0.25	4	40	+32
Southwest (7)												
Dubois_Ag	85	32	60	+10	0.66	1	59	0.75	-0.39	2	80	+53
Evansville	84	44	63	+11	0.80	2		0.90	-0.19	3	92	+55
Freelandville	83	32	60	+10	0.31	2		0.41	-0.60	3	75	+51
Shoals	85	32	60	+11	0.61	1		0.90	-0.21	2	77	+53
Vincennes_5NE	82	36	59	+10	0.69	2	48	0.69	-0.32	2	75	+51
South Central(8)												
Bloomington	84	32	59	+10	0.00	0		0.18	-0.86	1	69	+47
Tell_City	83	35	61	+9	0.89	2		1.15	-0.14	3	84	+51
Southeast (9)												
Scottsburg	85	33	59	+10	0.32	2		0.53	-0.60	3	71	+47

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

The above weather information is provided by AWIS, Inc.
For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at
www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

To date, it is our opinion that the Indiana wheat crop has not suffered any injury. However, each time wheat breaks dormancy and grows for a short period of time before re-entering dormancy, root reserves are lowered and therefore the vigor of the plant declines making it vulnerable to winter decline and perhaps death as a result of *Rhizoctoni*a. The intermittent freezing and thawing that has occurred the past week can result in severe heaving of the plants on wet, poorly drained or heavy soils.

As the wheat begins to break dormancy, it is time to top-dress with nitrogen as soon as soil conditions permit. Assuming that 20 pounds of nitrogen were applied at seeding time, the rate of top-dress nitrogen is directly related to yield potential. With a yield potential of 50 bushels per acre, we recommend 40 lbs. of N as a top-dress, at 70 bu/ac we recommend 60 lbs. of N and at 90 bu/ac, 90 lbs. of N. On soils with a cation exchange capacity less than 10, the N rate may need to be increased by 10-15 lbs./ac. When top dressing, we recommend the use of dry materials or the use of streamer bars when using liquid materials. Every effort should be made to keep as much of the nitrogen fertilizer off the wheat leaves as possible. Nitrogen fertilizer applied to a plant with lowered vigor and dead leaf tissue could cause a significant *Rhizoctonia* problem.

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